

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 369
By Koella

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ernest "Chip" Koella of Rockford.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the death of Ernest "Chip" Koella IV, who died tragically trying to save the life of someone who was drowning; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 1997, Kyle Tyree was kayaking on the rain-swollen Little River, between Egwani Farms and Rockford Manufacturing Company, when his kayak became caught in the current rushing over a dam; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Koella made a courageous attempt to rescue Mr. Tyree and despite his valiant efforts unfortunately both persons lost their lives; and

WHEREAS, this noble effort reflects the finest traditions of the "Volunteer" state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Koella received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Emory University in May, 1991, and his Master of Science Degree from North Carolina State University in December, 1993; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded student, he was awarded the illustrious 1993 Hoechst Celanese Excellence Award for Graduate Studies for the Best Thesis Dissertation at North Carolina State University; and

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WHEREAS, while in college, Mr. Koella majored in Textile Technology and Management, minored in Statistics, was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and maintained an exemplary 4.0 Grade Point Average; and

WHEREAS, during his college years, he also helped establish a successful painting company, "Two Guys", in Atlanta, Georgia and worked with his uncle and grandfather at Marrietta Lumber Company in the summer of 1990; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Koella also worked at Miliken and Company Total Quality Challenge and the Nonwovens Cooperative Research Center as a NCSU laboratory instructor and teaching assistant; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, he was the vice-president of Rockford Manufacturing Company, in Rockford, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in each of his several positions, Mr. Koella exhibited a solution-oriented commitment to excellence that was used as a model for other employees to emulate; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his grandfather, Ernest Koella, Jr. Survivors include his parents, Harriet Tumlin Koella of Maryville and Libby and Ernest Koella III of Rockford; grandparents, Jean M. Koella and Virginia and R. Stevens Tumlin; sisters, Harriet Stevens Koella and Virginia Brooks Koella; and brother, Michael Don Koella; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to honor the memory of Ernest "Chip" Koella IV; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Ernest "Chip" Koella IV, saluting his heroism, and express our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.

